

## GOING TO THE DOGS

One of the things that is a must do, when in Alaska, is a sled dog ride. This company loads 5 people on a wheeled sled and hooks up 14 hyper huskies for a wild 2 mile sled ride. The only thing missing was snow.

It all starts in the main pen area where 100 or more dogs are tethered to their doghouses. When they know that they are about to be hooked to a sled they erupt in a cacophony of barks and howls of excitement, for they were born and bred to do this.



They do not fit your expectation of a fluffy husky dog of the movies. They are non descript, thin, powerful dogs, perfectly fitted for the task of running the Iditarod, 1200 miles from Anchorage to Nome.

We learned that a team of 14 dogs wears little booties to protect their feet on the 9 day 1200 mile run. A team will wear out 3000 of these on the Iditarod!

The musher wears a real heavy pair of gloves that he or she never takes off at 30 deg. Below. If they do, in 30 seconds they freeze their fingers to the point of frostbite. The race is started with 16 dogs, which is a lot of horsepower. They may finish the race with as few as 10 dogs. The others are dropped along the way, if they are sick or unable to pull. They are picked up by handlers following.

We can visit and handle the current batch of little pups, which are too cute to resist.

Dave & Bonnie